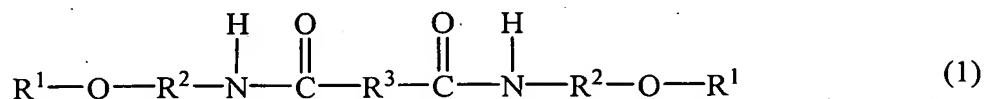


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (original): A dermatologic preparation, which comprises a diamide derivative represented by the following formula (1):

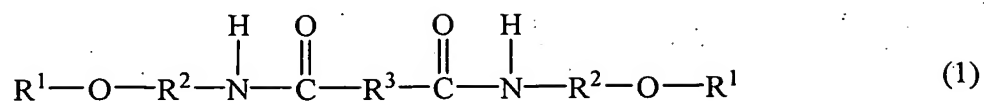


(wherein, R<sup>1</sup> represents a linear or branched hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms which may be substituted by one or more hydroxy and/or alkoxy groups, R<sup>2</sup> represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and R<sup>3</sup> represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 42 carbon atoms).

Claim 2 (original): A dermatologic preparation according to claim 1, which is a cosmetic preparation.

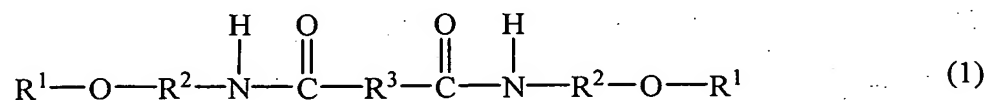
Claim 3 (original): A dermatologic preparation as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a linear or branched alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms which may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from a hydroxy group and C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy groups, R<sup>2</sup> represents a linear or branched hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and R<sup>3</sup> represents an alkylene group or an alkenylene group having 1 to 4 double bonds, which alkylene or alkenylene group may be linear or branched and has 2 to 34 carbon atoms.

Claim 4 (original): A humectant comprising, as an effective ingredient, a diamide derivative represented by the following formula (1):



(wherein,  $\text{R}^1$  represents a linear or branched hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms which may be substituted by one or more hydroxy and/or alkoxy groups,  $\text{R}^2$  represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and  $\text{R}^3$  represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 42 carbon atoms).

Claim 5 (original): A skin barrier function reinforcing agent comprising, as an effective ingredient, a diamide derivative represented by the following formula (1):



(wherein,  $\text{R}^1$  represents a linear or branched hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms which may be substituted by one or more hydroxy and/or alkoxy groups,  $\text{R}^2$  represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and  $\text{R}^3$  represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 42 carbon atoms).

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (new): The dermatologic preparation of claim 1, where  $\text{R}^1$  represents a linear hydrocarbon having 1 carbon atom,  $\text{R}^2$  represents a linear divalent hydrocarbon having 3 carbon atoms and  $\text{R}^3$  represents a branched divalent hydrocarbon having 20 carbon atoms.

Claim 9 (new): The humectant of claim 4, wherein where  $R^1$  represents a linear hydrocarbon having 1 carbon atom,  $R^2$  represents a linear divalent hydrocarbon having 3 carbon atoms and  $R^3$  represents a branched divalent hydrocarbon having 20 carbon atoms.

Claim 10 (new): The skin barrier function reinforcing agent of claim 5, wherein where  $R^1$  represents a linear hydrocarbon having 1 carbon atom,  $R^2$  represents a linear divalent hydrocarbon having 3 carbon atoms and  $R^3$  represents a branched divalent hydrocarbon having 20 carbon atoms.